

the ground, sixty-five in extent of boughs, and contains two hundred and fifty-six feet of solid timber. About the centre of the group stands an urn with the following inscription :

To the Memory
Of my
Two Highly Valued Friends,
Thomas Tyrwhitt, Esq.

And
The Rev. C. M. Cracherode, M.A.
In this once favour'd walk, beneath these Elms,
Whose thicken'd foliage, to the solar ray
Impervious, sheds a venerable gloom,
Of in instructive converse we beguiled
The fervid time which each returning year
To friendship's call devoted. Such things were ;
But are, alas ! no more.

S. DUNELM.

Pleasing as it always is to see worth and genius paying tribute to kindred associations, it is particularly so in the present instance, from the illustrious Prelate who, in these lines, hands down the names of his friends to posterity, and whom it is most delightful to contemplate amidst shades with which he is almost coeval, being at this time in his ninetieth year, and which in freshness and tranquillity are emblems of his own green and venerable old age.

PLATE XVII.—THE SHELTON OAK.

This stately tree stands on the road-side, where the Pool road diverges from that which leads to Oswestry, about a mile and a half from Shrewsbury; whose spires form a pleasing object in the distance, whilst above them, the famous mountain called the Wrekin lifts its head, and inspires a thousand social recollections, as the well-known toast, that includes all friends around its ample base, is brought to mind by the sight of its lofty summit. The appearance of the Shelton Oak, hollow throughout its trunk, and with a cavity towards the bottom capable of containing at least half a score persons, sufficiently denotes its antiquity. Tradition informs us, that just before the famous battle of Shrewsbury, June 21, 1403, headed on one side by Henry the IVth in person, and on the other by the gallant Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, Owen Glendower, the powerful Welsh Chieftain, and the firm adherent of the English Insurgents, ascended this tree, and from its lofty branches, then most probably in the full pride of their vigour, reconnoitred the state of the field: when finding that the King was in great force, and that the Earl of Northumberland had not joined his son Henry, he descended from his leafy observatory with the prudent resolution of declining the combat, and retreated with his followers to Oswestry. This caution seems scarcely in character with the fierce and heedless courage of

"The irregular and wild Glendower,"

whose martial daring is well portrayed by our great dramatic poet, in Hotspur's account of his combat with "the noble Mortimer;" of whom he says:

"To prove that true,
Needs no more but one tongue for all those wounds,
Those mouthed wounds, which valiantly he took,
When on the gentle Severn's sedgy bank,
In single opposition, hand to hand,
He did confound the best part of an hour
In changing hardiment with great Glendower.

Three times they breathed and three times did they drink,
Upon agreement, of swift Severn's flood;
Who then, affrighted with their bloody looks,
Ran fearfully among the trembling reeds,
And hid his crisp head in the hollow bank,
Blood-stained with these valiant combatants."

KING HENRY IV, 1st part, a. 1. sc. 3.

The great age of the Shelton Oak, thus pointed out by the tradition which connects it with the name of Glendower, is likewise attested by legal documents belonging to Richard Hill Waring, Esq., whose ancestors possessed lands in Shelton, and the neighbourhood, in the reign of Henry III.; probably deriving them from Waring, son of Athef, a Saxon, who had land in the market-place of Shrewsbury, before the use of dates was known. Among this gentleman's title-deeds is the following paper, inscribed, "per me Adam Waring," and entitled, "How the grette Oake at Shelton standeth on my grounde."